

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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SUBJECT: SAFASIA TEAMS IN PHILIPPINES

REF: STATE 187197

1. TRAINING OF AFP IN USE M-16 RIFLE. A PROGRAM WAS CONDUCTED FROM MAR 8 TO MAY 2, 1971 TO FAMILIARIZE PHILIPPINE MILITARY WITH MAP M-16S WHICH HAD BEEN NEWLY ACQUIRED AT THAT TIME. SAFASIA TEAM CONSISTED OF 12 MEN WHO GAVE SERIES OF TWO-DAY ORIENTATION COURSES TO AFP PERSONNEL, PRIMARILY OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCOS. INSTRUCTION WAS DESIGNED TO TEACH AFP STUDENTS CARE AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES FOR WEAPONS AND INCLUDED FAMILIARIZATION FIRING. NO OTHE SAFASIA TRAINING IN USE OR CARE OF M-16 RIFLES HAS BEEN CONDUCTED SUBSEQUENTLY.

2. WHAT ARE CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS? CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS ARE CONDUCTED BY SAFASIA'S 1ST CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION IN CONJUNCTION WITH AFP. SUCH PROGRAMS ARE DE-

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SIGNED AS TRAINING VEHICLES TO INCREASE CIVIC ACTION ACTION

SKILLS 1ST CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION'S MEDICAL, DENTAL, VETERINARY AND ENGINEER PERSONNEL. PROGRAMS INTEREFACE WITH SIMILAR AFP TRAINING REQUIREMENT AND HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN PROVINCES OF AFP'S CHOOSING. (SEE EMBASSY'S MEMO OF RECORD JUNE 14, 1972; A-249, SEPT 22, 1972; A-278, OCT 27, 1972; A-47, FEB 24, 1973; AND A-203, AUG 4, 1973.) THERE WERE EIGHT US-AFP CIVIC ACTION EXERCISES BETWEEN NOV 1970 AND MAY 1973. THREE ARE SCHEDULED IN FY 1974.

3. WHAT ARE PROFESSIONALDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS? SUCH PROGRAMS ARE USED TO DEVELOP PROFESSIONAL SKILLS SAFASIA PERSONNEL BY STRENGTHENING OR REINFORCING EXISTING MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALITIES (MOS), ACQUIRING NEW MOS SKILLS AND BY BROADENING PERSPECTIVE AND BACKGROUNDS OF SAFASIA PERSONNEL BY EXPOSING THEM TO FOREIGN ENVIRONMENT. AT SAME TIME, THESE PROGRAMS HAVE PROVIDED AFP USEFUL TECHNICAL EXPERTISE.

4. TYPES OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. THERE WERE THIRTEEN PROGRAMS IN THE PERIOD JAN 1970 AND JUNE 1973.

A. ENGINEER CONTROL/ADVISORY TEAMS. SIX 15 -MAN TEAMS CONSISTING SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL FROM SAFASIA'S 539TH ENGR, DETACHMENT CAME TO PHILS IN PERIOD. TEAMS WORKED WITH AFP ENGINEER UNITS ON IDENTIFICATION AND SOLUTION OF LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS. PROGRAM TERMINATED AT END OF FY 73.

B. SUPPLY MOBILE TRAINING TEAM (MTT). FIVE-MAN TEAM CONDUCTED SUPPLY SPECIALIST TRAINING COURSE FOR AFP LOGISTICAL PERSONNEL IN LATE 1970.

C. MAINTENANCE MTT. THREE-MAN TEAM CONDUCTED COURSE IN DIRECT SUPPORT MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES FOR AFP LOGISTICAL PERSONNEL IN APRIL/MAY 1971.

D. M-16 RIFLE TEAM. DESCRIBED IN PARA ONE.

E. SECURITY INSTRUCTION TEAM. TEN-MAN TEAM OF SAFASIA'S 441 MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DET. INSTRUCTED AFP PERSONNEL IN SAFEGUARDING AND DESTRUCTION OF CLASSIFIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATERIAL IN MAY/JUNE 1972.

F. SAFASIA COORDINATOR. TDY FROM JULY 1971 TO APRIL 1972 TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES OF SAFASIA TEAM. REPLACED BY PCS LIAISON OFFICER IN APRIL 1972.

G. SIGNAL ADVISORY TRAINING TASK FORCE (ATTF). EIGHT-MAN TEAM CONDUCTED SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE COURSES WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY RECEIVING FAMILIARIZATION ON AFP SIGNAL SYSTEMS AND OLD

STYLE RADIO EQUIPMENT NOT AVAILABLE TO SAFASIA.

H. USAID ENGINEER TEAM. THIRTEEN-MAN GROUP HAS BEEN IN HHLS SINCE DEC 1972 TO SUPPORT USAID'S CENTRAL LUZON REHABILITATION PROGRAM BY PROVIDING PROVINCIAL LEVEL EXPERTISE ON ENGINEERING PROJECTS, ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT REPAIR AND EQUIPMENT POOL PROCEDURES. PROJECT CONSISTS OF TWO-MAN ENGINEERING TEAMS OPERATING AS ADVISORS TO PROVINCIAL GOVTS IN FLOOD REHABILITATION AREA.

5. FY 1974 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPLOYMENTS. SUCH DEPLOYMENTS INCLUDE CONTINUATION OF THE USAID ENGINEER TEAM; A SIGNAL TRAINING TEAM AND A MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTICS TEAM.

6. FUNDING OF SAFASIA PROJECTS IN THE PHILIPPINES. 1970-1973. ALL SAFASIA CIVIC ACTION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WERE OMA FUNDED, EXCEPT FOR THE USAID ENGINEERING PROJECT IN WHICH USAID IS PAYING TDY COSTS.

7. COMPOSITION OF SAFASIA TEAMS WHICH HAVE BEEN SENT TO PHILIPPINES. EMBASSY INFORMED THAT SAFASIA CONSISTS OF 1,900 MEN, OF WHOM 350 NOT SPECIAL FORCES QUALIFIED. LATTER GROUP CONSISTS OF (A) ARMY SECURITY AGENCY DET. WHICH IS WHOLLY OKINAWA-ORIENTED; (B) 441ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DET. WHICH, AS NOTED ABOVE, SENT TEN-MAN TEAM HERE IN MAY/JUNE 1972, AND 539TH ENGINEER DET. WE ESTIMATE 90 PERCENT OF SAFASIA PERSONNEL WHO HAVE COME TO PHILS IN 1970--1973 HAVE BEEN FROM NON-SPECIAL FORCES QUALIFIED GROUP, MAINLY FROM 539TH ENGR. DET. DEPT AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SAFASIA DISASTER RELIEF TEAMS (DARTS) WHO PROVIDED SUCH STALWART ASSISTANCE DURING 1972 CENTRAL LUZON FLOODING WERE ENTIRELY MADE UP OF SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL.
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